

90 Common Themes in Literature

1. Beauty of simplicity
2. Change of power - necessity
3. Change versus tradition
4. Chaos and order
5. Character – destruction, building up
6. Circle of life
7. Coming of age
8. Communication – verbal and nonverbal
9. Convention and rebellion
10. Dangers of ignorance
11. Darkness and light
12. Death – inevitable or tragedy
13. Desire to escape
14. Destruction of beauty
15. Disillusionment and dreams
16. Displacement
17. Empowerment
18. Everlasting love
19. Evils of racism
20. Facing darkness
21. Facing reality
22. Fading beauty
23. Faith versus doubt
24. Family – blessing or curse
25. Fate and free will
26. Fear of failure
27. Female roles
28. Fulfillment
29. Good versus bad
30. Greed as downfall
31. Growing up – pain or pleasure
32. Hazards of passing judgment
33. Heartbreak of betrayal
34. Identity crisis
35. Illusion of power
36. Immortality
37. Individual versus society
38. Inner versus outer strength
39. Injustice
40. Isolation
41. Isolationism - hazards
42. Knowledge versus ignorance
43. Loneliness as destructive force
44. Losing hope
45. Loss of innocence
46. Lost honor
47. Lost love
48. Love and sacrifice
49. Man against nature
50. Manipulation
51. Materialism (\$\$) as downfall
52. Motherhood
53. Nationalism
54. Nature as beauty
55. Necessity of work
56. Oppression of women
57. Optimism – power or folly
58. Overcoming – fear, weakness, vice
59. Patriotism – positive side or complications
60. Power and corruption
61. Power of silence
62. Power of tradition
63. Power of wealth
64. Power of words
65. Pride and downfall
66. Progress – real or illusion
67. Quest for discovery
68. Quest for power
69. Rebirth
70. Reunion
71. Role of men
72. Role of Religion – virtue or hypocrisy
73. Role of women
74. Self – inner and outer
75. Self-awareness
76. Self-preservation
77. Self-reliance
78. Social mobility
79. Technology in society – good or bad
80. Temporary nature of physical beauty
81. Temptation and destruction
82. Totalitarianism
83. Vanity as downfall
84. Vulnerability of the meek
85. Vulnerability of the strong
86. War – glory, necessity, pain, tragedy
87. Will to survive
88. Wisdom of experience
89. Working class struggles
90. Youth and beauty